

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Norman Soloway on October 5, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 2, 4 and 5 have been canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 19-24 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: No prior art teaches a fuel cartridge that house liquid fuel having a fixed volume with a gas-liquid separation membrane and a shutter that adjusts a degree of exposure of the gas-liquid separation film and has a temperature dependent controller for adjusting the shutter based on a temperature in the liquid fuel housing chamber as recited in the claims.

The closest prior art is Yamauchi (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2004/0013928) and Hirsch (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2004/0209133). Yamauchi teaches a fuel cell system with a container and a gas liquid separator membrane (see par. 0089). Hirsch teaches a

shutter disposed in a fuel tank that can have a variety of settings (see par. 0056).

However, Yamauchi and Hirsch are silent about a temperature dependent controller for adjusting the shutter based on a temperature in the liquid fuel housing chamber.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PATRICIA DAVIS whose telephone number is (571)270-7868. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am-5pm EST. Monday-Friday, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dah-Wei Yuan can be reached on 571-272-1295. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/PATRICIA DAVIS/
Examiner, Art Unit 1795

/Dah-Wei D. Yuan/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1795